

Getting Vaccinated for COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions

May 5, 2023



How much will the vaccine cost?

MaineCare will cover the cost of your vaccine and vaccination. MaineCare members should not be charged or billed. Your provider should also not charge you for an office visit if you go in only to get the vaccine.

Where can I find a vaccination site near me?

Visit: www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines.

How does the COVID-19 vaccines work?

The COVID-19 vaccine triggers an immune response that produces antibodies which protect us from getting sick from that germ when exposed to that strand of the virus. For more information about vaccines and how they work, please visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

Who can get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster?

People over age six months are able to get a COVID-19 vaccine or booster if they have already completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series.

Are all the available vaccines safe and effective?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the vaccines for emergency use and found them all to be highly effective and safe with no serious safety concerns. Independent experts agree the vaccines are safe and effective.

What happens after I get vaccinated?

You will need to wait 15 to 30 minutes before leaving the vaccine site so your vaccine provider can help you if you do have an allergic reaction or other side effects. While you wait, you can sign up for v-safe to report any side effects and get a reminder for your second dose: vsafe.cdc.gov.

It is common to have side effects one to three days after getting the vaccine. Common side effects are tiredness, muscle pain, pain in the arm where you got your shot, fever, headache, joint pain, chills, nausea, or vomiting. If your symptoms don't go away within three to four days, contact your doctor or clinic. You or your vaccine provider can also report side effects to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html.

If you get either the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax vaccine, be sure to make an appointment for your second dose. You'll need to come back in three to eight weeks to get your second dose to complete your primary series. Two months after your primary series is complete,

people over the age of six months will need an updated bivalent booster shot to be considered up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccines

Will I feel side effects from my COVID-19 vaccine?

Like other routine vaccines, you may have a sore arm, fever, headaches, or fatigue after you are vaccinated. These are signs that the vaccine is working.

When should I talk to my doctor before I get a vaccine?

Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent getting COVID-19. If you decide to get a COVID-19 vaccine, you should tell your health care provider if you:

- Have a history of severe allergic reactions
- Have a fever
- Have a bleeding disorder or take blood thinners
- Are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- Are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are lactating
- Have received another COVID-19 vaccine

You should not get the vaccine if you have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or to any ingredient in the vaccine.

Is permission from a parent or guardian required for youth under age 18?

Yes. Parents or guardians can give permission in two ways: either by phone with a witness listening on the phone line or by written consent on paper or electronically. Each vaccination site has their own consent form. Follow the instructions for submitting the form provided by the vaccination site.

Some individuals under age 18 may give their own consent for vaccination. For more information, please visit: <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines/public-faq>

It is recommended, but not required, that a parent or guardian be present during vaccination. For youth where DHHS is the legal guardian, the youth must be accompanied by a caseworker or resource parent, except at school-based vaccination clinics, where it is recommended, but not required, for a resource parent or caseworker to be present. If possible, youth should bring a form of identification to their appointment. If no documentation is available, parents or guardians can attest to the youth's eligibility to receive the vaccine.

What should I do if I believe I am having an allergic reaction after leaving the clinic?

Call 911. Signs of an allergic reaction may include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face and throat, fast heartbeat, a bad rash all over your body, dizziness, and weakness.

See the following webpages for more information:

- www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>